

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:ARTHOMPSON/GBOUTIN:LG
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TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, CVIS, SHUM, PL

SUBJECT: U.S.-POLISH RELATIONS

REF: WARSAW 2510

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES CONCEPTUAL TREATMENT GIVEN IN
REFTEL TO QUESTION OF HOW WE CHARACTERIZE U.S. POLICY
TOWARD POLAND IN UPCOMING TALKS HERE WITH VICE FOREIGN
MINISTER SPASOWSKI. WE CONCUR IN MOST RESPECTS. CERTAINLY
SPASOWSKI'S PRIMARY CONCERN IN WASHINGTON WILL BE TO HEAR
FROM US (A) CLEAR REAFFIRMATION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR GOAL OF
EXPANDED U.S.-POLISH RELATIONS AND (B) INDICATIONS OF WAYS
NEW ADMINISTRATION VISUALIZES GOAL BEING REACHED. WE
RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR WITHHOLDING OPEN
EXPRESSION OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THAT GOAL WHILE AT SAME TIME
EMPHASIZING TWO BILLION DOLLAR TRADE GOAL HAS MERIT IN
ATTEMPTING TO KEEP POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS
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STRICTLY APART. IT ALSO GIVES NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO
UNACCEPTABLE EFFORTS BY POLES (WHICH HAVE BEEN TOUCHED ON
BY WORKING-LEVEL MEMBERS OF POLISH EMBASSY HERE) TO PRESS
FOR FEWER RESTRAINTS ON IMPORTS FROM POLAND IN RETURN FOR
THEIR BEING MORE LIBERAL IN ISSUING PASSPORTS TO MEMBERS
OF DIVIDED FAMILIES, I.E., IN EFFECT BUYING OUT FAMILY
MEMBERS AS WEST GERMANS HAVE BOUGHT OUT 120,000 ETHNIC

GERMANS.

2. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WITHHOLDING NEW ADMINISTRATION'S GENERAL REAFFIRMATION IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WOULD, WHETHER INTENDED OR NOT, CONVEY SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR POLISH LEADERSHIP FAR BEYOND USG UNHAPPINESS WITH SLOW POLISH RESPONSE IN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES. WE WOULD NOT WANT POLES TO BELIEVE THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION IS DOWN-GRADING IMPORTANCE OF "THE POLISH CONNECTION." IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE FOR US TO STATE THAT WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR IMPROVED AND EXPANDED RELATIONS WHILE STATING AT THE SAME TIME OUR CONCERN OVER LACK OF POLISH RESPONSIVENESS TO AN ISSUE OF GREAT INTEREST TO US, NAMELY DIVIDED FAMILIES.

3. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON TWO BILLION DOLLAR GOAL RATHER THAN ON MUTUAL EFFORTS TO HELP BRING ABOUT CONTINUED EXPANSION OF POLISH EXPORTS, AS WELL AS OF U.S. EXPORTS, COULD BE MISLEADING AND A DRAWBACK IN LONG RUN. POLES CANNOT BE ENCOURAGED TO LOOK UPON GOAL FIGURE (CONTAINED IN OCTOBER 1974 JOINT STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION) AS THEY LOOK UPON TRADE PROTOCOLS WITH THEIR CEMA PARTNERS--I.E., FIRST AS SOMETHING WHICH USG, AS APART FROM PRIVATE U.S. INDUSTRY, IS ABLE TO BRING ABOUT ON ITS OWN AND SECOND AS FIRM OBLIGATION ON PART OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. SUCH ENCOURAGEMENT COULD LEAD POLES TO THINK WE SEE SOME MERIT IN MULTI-YEAR TRADE PLANNING AS WAY OF AVOIDING "CHAOS" OF FREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARKET AND THUS WORK AGAINST OUR EFFORTS TO CONVINCE POLES OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE MARKET SYSTEM. AS EMBASSY AWARE, POLES ALREADY HAVE SHOWN TENDENCY TO USE THE TWO BILLION DOLLAR FIGURE AS ARGUMENT AGAINST US IN THEIR COMPLAINTS ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AS U.S. LEGISLATIVE RESTRAINTS ON EAST-WEST TRADE. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THEY HAVE ALLEGED TO US THAT USG MUST ACCOMMODATE ITS LEGISLATION ON DUMPING, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES OR MARKET DISRUPTION IN ORDER TO MEET TWO BILLION DOLLAR GOAL. THUS, WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE POLES IMPRESSION WE ARE BACKING AWAY FROM THE TWO BILLION DOLLAR FIGURE AS A DESIRABLE GOAL, WE DO BELIEVE WE SHOULD GENTLY BEGIN TO DE-EMPHASIZE IT IN FAVOR OF PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC EFFORTS TO EXPAND TWO-WAY TRADE.

4. REGARDING TRADE GOAL, WE WILL SAY THAT WHILE IT IS WELL TO KEEP THAT AMBITIOUS TARGET IN MIND, OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO FINDING CONCRETE AND PRACTICAL WAYS FOR U.S.-POLISH TRADE AND ECONOMIC

RELATIONS TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND AND DEEPEN. WE WILL
SAY THAT WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THEIR NEED TO EXPAND

EXPORTS TO THIS AND OTHER HARD-CURRENCY MARKETS AND WILL
DO WHAT WE CAN TO FACILITATE IT BUT NOTE THAT JOB IS
BASICALLY UP TO THEM. WE WILL ADD THAT THE U.S. MARKET
IS OPEN TO IMPORTS FROM POLAND AND OTHER NON-MARKET ECON-
OMIES AND, ACCORDING TO OUR FIGURES, U.S. IMPORTS FROM
POLAND ROSE 31 PERCENT LAST YEAR.
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